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9. (Amended) The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the receptacle includes a face portion [corresponding to] including the face of the at least one socket, and the front surface of the cover plate is sized to cover the entire face portion of the receptacle except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket and the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

10. (Amended) The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the front surface other than the [indented] line is substantially smooth.

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12. (Amended) A cover plate for covering an electrical outlet, the electrical outlet including a receptacle having at least one socket, each of the at least one socket including a face and a plurality of blade apertures for receiving plug blades, the cover plate comprising:

a front surface for facing outwardly from the electrical outlet and externally relative to the cover plate and a back surface for facing toward the electrical outlet;

a plurality of blade apertures extending through the cover plate and through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the blade apertures are in substantial alignment with the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the plug blades;

the front surface containing a single line extending substantially in a rectangle around the blade apertures [and the at least one securing aperture], the front surface otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any other apertures;

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the cover plate being a ~~single~~ ^B solid component except for the blade apertures.

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18. (Amended) The cover plate of claim 12, wherein the receptacle includes a face portion [corresponding to] ~~including~~ ^B the face of the at least one socket, and the front surface of the cover plate is sized to cover the entire face portion of the receptacle except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

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22. (Amended) A cover plate for covering an electrical outlet, the electrical outlet including a receptacle having at least one socket and at least one securing aperture for receiving a securing device, each of the at least one socket including a face and a plurality of blade apertures for receiving plug blades, the cover plate

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comprising:

a front surface for facing outwardly from the electrical outlet and externally relative to the cover plate and a back surface facing toward the electrical outlet;

a plurality of blade apertures extending through the cover plate through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the blade apertures are in substantial alignment with the at least two blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the plug blades; and

at least one securing aperture extending through the cover plate through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the at least one securing aperture is in substantial alignment with a corresponding one of the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical

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outlet for receiving the securing device and fixedly positioning the cover plate with respect to the receptacle;

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the front surface of the cover plate containing a first region substantially rectangular in shape disposed about and including all the blade apertures and the at least one securing aperture and a second region which contains the portion of the front surface other than the first region, the front surface having a discontinuity between the first and second regions, the first region otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any other apertures, and the second region otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any apertures.

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[23. (Amended) The cover plate of claim 22, wherein the first region is elevated outwardly [from the front surface] relative to the second region.]

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24. (Amended) The cover plate of claim ~~22~~, wherein the first region is recessed inwardly [from the front surface] relative to the second region.

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28. (Amended) The cover plate of claim ~~22~~, wherein a portion of the back surface [being] is shaped to directly contact and be substantially flush with the face of the at least one socket.

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AC 30. (Amended) The cover plate of claim ~~22~~, wherein the receptacle includes a face portion [corresponding to] including the face of the at least one socket, and the front surface of the cover plate is sized to cover the entire face portion of the receptacle except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket and the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

34. (Originally numbered as claim 35) (Amended) A cover plate for covering an electrical outlet, the electrical outlet including a receptacle having at least one socket, each of the at least one socket including a face and a plurality of blade apertures for receiving plug blades, the cover plate comprising:

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a front surface for facing outwardly from the electrical outlet and externally relative to the cover plate and a back surface for facing toward the electrical outlet;

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a plurality of blade apertures extending through the cover plate and through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the blade apertures are in substantial alignment with the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the plug blades;

the front surface of the cover plate containing a first region substantially rectangular in shape disposed about and including all the blade apertures and a second region which contains the portion of the front surface other than the first region, the front surface having a discontinuity between the first and second regions, the first region otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any other apertures, and the second region otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any apertures.

35. (Originally numbered as claim 36) (Amended) The cover plate of claim 34, wherein the first region is elevated outwardly [from the front surface] relative to the second region.